

Present: Dwight Baker; John Coney, Chair; Ray Day, Jr.; John Jensen; Holly Plackett; Anirudh Sahni, Vice Chair; Joan Sells

Excused: Andy Bennett; Hans Brandal; Dick Burkhart; Dave Elliott; Sandy Paul-Lyle; Mike Taylor

Staff: Barbara de Michele, Community Relations Planner; Matt Shelden, Sound Transit Service Planner; Rob Fellows, Metro Transit planner

Chair John Coney called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Coney reported that he attended the Regional Transit Committee and submitted TAC's letter of support for Transit Now. He also attended the Transportation Committee meeting and spoke on behalf of Transit Now, as did John Jensen and Anirudh Sahni. Dwight Baker was also in attendance. The Transportation Committee passed the resolution to place Transit Now on the November ballot on a 3-2 vote. The entire Council will vote on the measure either August 21 or August 28.*

Sound Transit Phase II

Matt Shelden gave a report on the status of Sound Transit Phase II. Voters first established Sound Transit in 1996, with a ten-year work program and an understanding that voters could renew and/or expand ST in 2006. Throughout 2004 and 2005, ST staff worked to develop a needs assessment, and then narrowed the list of proposed projects from some 600 to 65 and now three major options. Last year the state legislature tied ST passage to the Regional Transit Investment District. Both must pass for either to pass. If they fail at the ballot, then it will be "back to the drawing board" for both agencies, but they will not necessarily have to go to the ballot together again.

The board must make a series of policy decisions before the measure is placed on the ballot. The board recently finalized one of the most significant policy decisions, to use light rail rather than Bus Rapid Transit across I-90 to the Eastside.

The Sound Transit board is authorized to raise the sales tax by up to .05. They will continue to get .03 MVET tax until 2028. ST also receives fare box returns and some federal grants.

The board reviewed a "do nothing" (.00 sales tax increase) and "low capital" ballot measure (.01 sales tax increase). The board rejected both. They are still considering a "low" scenario (.03 sales tax increase), a "medium" scenario (.04 sales tax increase) and a "high" scenario (.05 sales tax increase). These last three will be taken out to the public during September for comment. The comment period ends on September 30.

TAC members discussed the presentation. TAC comments reflected concerns from individual subareas of the County. Members directed staff to solicit written comments from all TAC members for a possible letter of advice in September.

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Transit Now Update

The Council is expected to vote on whether to place Transit Now on the ballot on August 21 or August 28.* Coney will attend on behalf of the TAC, and members are encouraged to attend if able.

Eastside Sounding Board

Plackett and Baker reported that the Eastside Sounding Board had nearly completed its work, with one more meeting in September. Implementation of the Eastside network will depend on funding, and could be accelerated by the passage of Transit Now, or phased in over a number of years without additional funding.

Future Agendas

- Coney requested that the TAC receive an update from Executive staff on the status of the Burlington Northern right of way.
- Sells requested that a report on the traffic and congestion conditions in Fauntleroy be given to the group at a future meeting.
- Day reported his attendance at a focus group on new signage standards being developed by Metro's marketing and customer notification sections. Once a pilot program has been completed, Day requested that this item be brought to the attention of the entire TAC.

Adjournment

Coney adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

*After the meeting, Metro staff learned that the Council will take up the Transit Now proposal either on August 21 or their first meeting in September.